

North Eastern River Basin Management Plan

# Competent Authorities

December 2009

# Competent Authorities

## North Eastern River Basin District

This annex sets out the name and address of the competent authority for River Basin Planning within the North Eastern River Basin District and includes a summary of the authority's legal status and responsibilities.

If you would like to contact the competent authority for the North Eastern District you can also find contact details here.

### **Names and addresses of the competent authority:**

The competent authority for the North Eastern River Basin District is the Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland.

#### **Northern Ireland**

Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland  
River House  
High Street  
Belfast  
Northern Ireland  
BT1 2AW

### **Geographical coverage of the North Eastern River Basin District:**



### **Legal status of the competent authority:**

#### **Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland:**

The Department of the Environment was established under Article 3 of the Ministries (NI) Order 1973 No. 2161 (N.I. 24). The Departments (NI) Order 1999 (N.I. 1) repealed the Ministries (NI) Order 1973 but contained a saving in Article 3 (3) providing for the continuing in existence of the Department of the Environment. DOENI is the competent authority for coordinating Water Framework Directive implementation. The following three Departments are also responsible for exercising their relevant functions to ensure compliance with the Directive: the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) and the Department for Regional Development (DRD) (see appendix 1 for more details).

### **Responsibilities of the competent authority:**

Article 3(2) of the WFD requires member states to identify the appropriate competent authority for the application of the rules of the Directive within each River Basin district. The “competent authority” has a general responsibility for ensuring the Directive is given effect. The authority also has specific responsibilities for ensuring that appropriate economic analysis is carried out, approving proposals for environmental objectives and programmes of measures and approving the River Basin Management Plans.

The duties of the competent authority in Northern Ireland, the Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland are set out in the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 544). These regulations were made under section 2(2) European Communities Act 1972 c.68. The Department of the Environment Northern Ireland is responsible for carrying out the analysis required for characterization, monitoring and identifying waters used for the abstraction of drinking water and establishing a register of those waters and other protected areas. The Department has to prepare proposals for environmental objectives and programmes of measures for each River Basin District and prepare the public River Basin Management Plans. The Department must also ensure public participation in preparation of the River Basin Management Plan and make certain information required under the Framework Directive is accessible to the public. For more details on the responsibilities of the competent authority in Northern Ireland please see the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 544) (<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/sr/sr2003/20030544.htm>).

While the implementation of river basin planning is co-ordinated by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency there is a shared responsibility for the delivery of the plans at a cross Departmental level. Other government departments actively support the Plans through active engagement. The WFD interdepartmental Implementation Working Group (IWG) was established to co-ordinate the activities of government departments and agencies delivering the requirements of the Directive.

Members of the IWG include representatives from:

- DCAL
- DARD Environmental Policy, Countryside Management
  - Rivers Agency
  - Forest Service

- DOE
  - Planning and Environmental Policy
  - Planning Service
  - NIEA - Natural Heritage, Water Management, Land and Resource Management, Drinking Water Inspectorate
- DRD Water Policy, Ports and Transport, Roads Service,
- Loughs Agency
- NIW
- AFBI

**International Relationships:**

Not applicable. The North Eastern River Basin District is located entirely within Northern Ireland.

**Contact points and procedures:**

For queries on the North Eastern River Basin District please contact:

**Northern Ireland**

Jo Campbell  
Northern Ireland Environment Agency  
River Basin Planning  
Water Management Unit  
17 Antrim Road  
Lisburn  
BT28 3AL  
Telephone: (028 9262 3100)  
Email: riverbasinplanning@doeni.gov.uk

Please note: this document does not replace the official Water Framework Directive Article 3 report on Competent Authorities. Details of this report can be found under the official Water Framework Directive reports for the UK and can be accessed at [http://www.euwfd.com/html/key\\_wfd\\_documents.html](http://www.euwfd.com/html/key_wfd_documents.html).

## Appendix 1: Summary General Duties of Northern Ireland Departments under the Water Framework Directive

<b>Department</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Connection to Water Framework Directive</b>
Department of the Environment <a href="http://www.doeni.gov.uk">www.doeni.gov.uk</a>	The competent authority responsible for co-ordinating Water Framework Directive implementation.	
	Northern Ireland Environment Agency (formerly Environment and Heritage Service)	Responsible for protecting the aquatic and natural environment and regulating drinking water quality. Taking forward most of the technical work required for Water Framework Directive implementation.
	Planning & Environmental Policy Group	Responsible for policy and legislation on a range of environmental areas, including water, climate change and natural heritage.
	Planning Service	Responsible for developing and implementing government planning policies and development plans.
Department for Regional Development <a href="http://www.drdni.gov.uk">www.drdni.gov.uk</a>	Regional Planning & Transportation	Responsible for monitoring and contributing to the implementation of the Regional Development Strategy and monitoring the implementation of the Regional Transport Strategy.
	Roads Service	As part of their road maintenance functions, Roads Service provide for drainage from road surfaces and have installed sustainable drainage systems into the design of some new road construction schemes e.g. Toome Bypass.
	Ports and Public Transport Division	Responsible for the discharge of statutory and other duties in respect of air and sea ports and public transport and contributing to national policy development for ports and airports.
	Water Policy Division	Responsible for policy in relation to the water and sewerage industry including water pricing policies for the efficient use of water resources.
Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure <a href="http://www.dcalni.gov.uk">www.dcalni.gov.uk</a>	Responsibilities include developing policy, service delivery, administration and monitoring of inland fisheries and inland waterways. The Department has overall policy responsibility for the supervision and protection of salmon and inland fisheries, and for the establishment and development of fisheries and water recreation, in Northern Ireland.	
Department of Agriculture & Rural Development <a href="http://www.dardni.gov.uk">www.dardni.gov.uk</a>	Responsibility for farming and environmental policy and the development of the rural sector in Northern Ireland. It provides a business development service for farmers and growers, and a veterinary service with administration of animal health and welfare.	
	Forest Service	Maintains and protects forests in a sustainable

		way to increase the natural resources of Northern Ireland.
	Rivers Agency	Manages Northern Ireland's extensive network of rivers and inland waterways for drainage and flood risk management. In particular, Rivers Agency aim to reduce the risk to life and damage to property from flooding from rivers and the sea, underpin drainage of agricultural land and undertake drainage infrastructure works to facilitate new housing and industrial development.
	Fisheries Division	Responsible for sea fisheries, aquaculture and fish health policy.
	Countryside Management Branch	Provides advice and guidance across a wide range of countryside issues including the Agri-Environment Scheme and Management Plans, Codes of Good Agricultural Practice and Cross Compliance.